

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SINGAP 00257 200216Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /047 W

-----071917 201412Z /44

R 180700Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9412

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 0257

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, US, SN, RP

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE A-4 TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES

REFS: (A) 77 STATE 305926, (B) 76 SINGAPORE 4672, (C) SINGAPORE 4673,  
(D) 77 SINGAPORE 3032

1. AS REQUESTED REF A, WE QUERIED GOS IN LATE DECEMBER ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF SINGAPORE'S A-4 TRAINING PROGRAM. IN RESPONSE, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PERMSEC CHEONG QWEE WAH CALLED IN AIRA ON JANUARY 16 AND GAVE HIM AN AIDE MEMOIRE, THE TEXT OF WHICH IS QUOTED IN PARA 2 BELOW. ATTACHED TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE WAS A COPY OF THE LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 10, 1976 FROM PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO TO THE SINGAPORE AMBASSADOR IN MANILA. THE TEXT OF THIS LETTER WAS FORWARDED AND DISCUSSED IN REFTELS B AND C. A COPY IS BEING POUCHE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

2. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE FROM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, DATED JANUARY 16, 1978: QUOTE:

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE HAS, FOR SOME TIME PAST, BEEN DISCUSSING WITH THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SINGAP 00257 200216Z

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AS REQUEST FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AIR FORCE TO STATION A DETACHMENT AT CLARK AIR FORCE BASE IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNDERGOING CONTINUATION TRAINING. THIS IS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF REQUIRED AIR SPACE IN SINGAPORE FOR THIS KIND OF TRAINING. IT WAS ALSO INDICATED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN

ITS ASSENT TO THIS PROJECT OF CONTINUATION TRAINING.

A DRAFT AGREEMENT TO FACILITATE THIS TRAINING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES COVERING JURISDICTION, LIABILITY AND OTHER GENERAL CONDITIONS THAT WOULD APPLY TO RSAF PERSONNEL WHO ARE IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS SINCE FORWARDED FOR ACCEPTANCE BY THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT A DRAFT AGREEMENT SETTING OUT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THESE FACILITIES ARE TO BE USED.

SINCE IT WAS THE UNDERSTANDING WITH THE US GOVERNMENT THAT ANY AGREEMENT TO BE CONCLUDED WITH THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THIS MATTER WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE US GOVERNMENT BEFORE IT IS FINALISED, THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE US GOVERNMENT IS THEREFORE SOUGHT FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED FOR REFERENCE.

ON RECEIVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE US GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE WILL PROCEED TO CONCLUDE THE AGREEMENT. THIS WOULD PROVIDE FOR ONE RSAF DETACHMENT TO BE DEPLOYED TO CLARK AIR FORCE BASE PERIODICALLY TO UNDERGO CONTINUATION TRAINING. THE RSAF DETACHMENT WILL COMPRIZE NO MORE THAN 75 PERSONS AND 8 A-4S AIRCRAFT. THERE WILL BE SIX GROUPS, OF 8 PILOTS FOR EACH GROUP, WHICH WILL TRAIN ONE AFTER ANOTHER WITH EACH PERIOD OF TRAINING LASTING 2 MONTHS. IT IS THE INTENTION

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SINGAP 00257 200216Z

OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE TO COMMENCE THIS TRAINING IN EARLY MAY, 1978. UNQUOTE.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE AIDE MEMOIRE WITH CHEONG, AIRA COMMENTED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE USG HAD EXPECTED BOTH SINGAPORE AND PHILIPPINES JOINTLY TO REQUEST U.S. APPROVAL FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT BETWEEN THEM, RATHER THAN A REQUEST FROM SINGAPORE ALONE. CHEONG DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY WITH THIS IDEA, AND ASKED THAT WE LET HIM KNOW IN DUE COURSE WHAT IS REQUIRED.

4. IT SEEKS EVIDENT FROM THE FOREGOING THAT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OR NO MOVEMENT IN THE A-4 TRAINING PROPOSAL PROJECT SINCE OUR DISCUSSION WITH FORMER PERMSEC PANG TEE POW IN JULY 1977 (REFTEL D). THIS COULD BE DUE IN PART TO PANG'S HOSPITALIZATION AND EVENTUAL DEATH LAST FALL, SINCE HE APPARENTLY WAS ONE OF THE PRIME MOVERS IN THE PROJECT.

5. OF IMPORTANCE TO NOTE IS THAT THE ROMULO LETTER ATTACHED TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE IS A DUPLICATING MACHINE COPY OF THE SAME LETTER SHARED WITH US IN OCTOBER 1976 WHICH WE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY MANILA. APPARENTLY THE GOS

IS NOW PREPARED TO ACCEPT IN TOTO ALL OF THE ORIGINAL  
PHILIPPINE CONDITIONS AND STIPULATIONS, SOME OF WHICH ARE  
POSSIBLY TROUBLESOME TO OUR OWN ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE PHILI-  
PPINES PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS OPERATIONAL CONTROL. NOT ONLY  
WOULD THE RSAF DETACHMENT BE GOVERNED BY PHILIPPINE LAWS AND  
REGULATIONS, WITH THE PHILIPPINES HAVING JURISDICTION OVER ALL  
OFFENSES BY RSAF MEMBERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, BUT THE PHILIPPINE  
AIR FORCE WOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER ALL TRAINING ACTIVITIES THROUGH  
SUCH MEANS AS APPROVAL RIGHTS ON TRAINING FLIGHTS AND AIRCRAFT  
SCHEUDLING, SPECIFICATION OF AIR NAVIGATION ROUTES TO BE  
FLOWN, SUBMISSION OF DAILY TRAINING REPORTS BY THE RSAF, AND  
INSPECTIONS OF RSAF FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON HOW WE SHOULD  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SINGAP 00257 200216Z

RESPOND TO THE GOS AIDE MEMOIRE.  
HOLDRIDGE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL TRAINING, MILITARY PERSONNEL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SINGAP00257  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780030-1100  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SINGAPORE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780149/aaaabpjn.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** b8fc3be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 305926, 76 SINGAPORE 4672, 78 SINGAPORE 4673, 77 SINGAPORE 3032  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3753524  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SINGAPORE A-4 TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES  
**TAGS:** MILI, US, SN, RP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b8fc3be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014